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RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 3307
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RHMFISS/JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
RUEKJCS/OSD WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL//J5/J2/POLAD//

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SIPDIS

SENSITIVE
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DEPARTMENT FOR WHA/CEN
SOUTHCOM ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [PTER](#) [SMIG](#) [OAS](#) [PM](#)
SUBJECT: PANAMA RESPECTS U.S. POSITION BUT CAN'T COMMENT ON
OAS DECLARATION

REF: STATE 176810

¶1. (SBU) Panama cannot comment on Mexico's proposed OAS declaration on U.S. border security because it has not yet seen the text, MFA Sub-Director for Exterior Politics Vladimir Franco told Poloff October 24. However, Franco stated that Panama understood and respected the sovereign right of countries, including the United States, to control the security of their borders. Franco added that Panama supported the right of the United States to construct a border wall as long as it remained on U.S. territory, saying that Panama took the same position on the Israeli separation barrier.

¶2. (SBU) Overall, Panama supports "legal, secure, and orderly" international migration as well as integrated reforms to U.S. and other countries' immigration policies, said Franco. He agreed to relay the U.S. position to Panama's OAS delegation but emphasized that Panama cannot take a position on the proposed declaration until it has seen the text.

ARREAGA